



August 21, 2013

Alf W. Brandt, Legislative Director  
Assemblymember Anthony Rendon  
State Capitol – Room 2136  
Sacramento, California 95814

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input in the State Assembly's framework for crafting the next water bond.

In particular, watershed protection is the foundation for water quantity and water quality statewide, whether locally derived or delivered hundreds of miles. Without protecting the source of our waters and ensuring its health throughout its life cycle, other measures that simply improve upon infrastructure will fall short of the overall goal of sustainability. This is recognized by the multitude of successful statewide and regional programs that have been funded in past water bonds and other sources over the last several decades.

An integral part of balancing local self-reliance as well as the wise use of conveyed water throughout the past several decades has been the state's ability to direct funds through various state agencies and programs that are best suited to meet the vast array of needs. For example, where the Department of Water Resources has the scope and capability to deal with large intrastate water projects, other agencies, like the State Conservancies, have had the ability to make efficient investments, leveraging federal, local and private funds with local input and buy in. This, in turn, develops regional and more self-sustaining watershed projects for communities. The State Conservancies also have an outstanding track record in stretching the state's investments further and fostering a greater sense of ownership in the capital improvements of our watersheds.

Any new water bond must recognize the importance of a watershed protection component. We agree and support the Assembly's current principles that an equal share of future water bond funding should be dedicated for watershed protection and urge the representatives to look at existing state agencies, programs and partners for the most efficient delivery of those projects and ultimately a more secure water future for Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ben Clay", is written over a faint circular stamp.

Ben Clay, Chairman  
San Diego River Conservancy